

University of Western Ontario
Department of History
2013

HIS2149B: MEDIEVAL LIVES

Instructor: Christopher Landon
Office: TBD
Office Hours: Wed., 1:30pm–2:30pm
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Lectures: Wed., 9:30am–11:30am
Location: SSC3010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to medieval western Europe through an examination of the lives of some of its inhabitants, with a particular focus on their daily lives. The historical reality of such lives is juxtaposed against contemporary popular notions about the Middle Ages. What can these lives tell us about their society?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will:

- Correct some common misconceptions about the Middle Ages
- Examine, where possible, how medieval people thought about their own lives
- Introduce the idea of history as a research discipline.

READING

Weekly readings will be posted on the OWL course website. These will consist mainly of selections taken from primary sources written during the medieval period. No textbook is required, but students wanting a brief general introduction to the topic of medieval history can find one in Judith M. Bennett, *Medieval Europe: A Short History* (New York, 2011).

DOCUMENT STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Students will be required to select, read and analyze a primary source document written during the medieval period. What can this source tell us about life during the Middle Ages? Completed assignments will be roughly 4 pages in length and submitted in class on the specified date. More detailed instructions and a list of possible sources will be provided on the OWL course website.

EXAMINATIONS

This course will have a midterm and a final exam, both to be held in class. Each will last approximately one hour.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Document Study.....30%
Midterm.....35%
Final Exam.....35%

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Jan. 9	Introduction: Life in Medieval Europe
Jan. 16	The Peasantry
Jan. 23	The Nobility
Jan. 30	The Clergy
Feb. 6	The Viking Life
Feb. 13	Midterm!
Feb. 20	Reading Week!
Feb. 27	Kings and Queens
March 6	Urban Life
March 13	The Bourgeoisie
March 20	Marriage and the Family
March 27	Women's Lives (Primary source assignment due in class!)
April 3	The Lives of 'Others'
April 10	Final Exam!

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca